

INTRODUCTION

In his book, “*Outrageous*”, Aaron Tredway writes, “The Bible records countless stories of Jesus giving His followers the ability to heal sick people, resurrect dead people, and travel the world doing things that most of us would never imagine were possible.... They might have appeared to be ordinary, but when they connected their lives to Jesus, outrageous things began to happen.” The apostles were a great example of this. Let’s look at Peter and John in Acts 3-4 to see how Jesus changed the lives of ordinary fisherman to apostles who extended the Kingdom of Heaven wherever they walked.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. Share with your group the most outrageous thing that has happened in your life.
2. The story we’re looking at in Acts involves Peter and John. Let’s briefly look at what we know of them from the Gospels. Read the following verses and record what you learn:

PETER

- John 1:40-42 _____
- Luke 5:1-10 _____
- Matthew 8:14 _____
- Matthew 14:28-29 _____
- Matthew 16:16-17 _____
- Matthew 16:22-23 _____
- John 18:10-11 _____
- Matthew 26:33,70-74 _____

JOHN

- Mark 1:19-20 _____
- Mark 3:17 _____
- Mark 9:38-41 _____
- Luke 9:51-54 _____
- Matthew 20:20-24 _____
- John 13:23 _____
- John 19:25-27 _____

3. Read Acts 3:1-9 and Acts 4:1-13. The lame beggar asked for money, and instead received complete healing. What does this say about the nature of God? (Hint – see Ephesians 3:20.)
4. Read Acts 4:8-10. Who does Peter, a simple fisherman, credit for this outrageous encounter?

Study Questions for Community Groups

5. It was likely just a few weeks since Annas and Caiaphas had been involved in trial of Jesus, but Peter was bold by confronting them in Acts 4:10-12. Why was Peter, who denied Christ (Matthew 26:74) and hid in fear of the Jewish leaders after His crucifixion (John 20:19), able to speak so boldly and eloquently?
6. What was the reaction of those who heard Peter's response (Acts 4:13)?
7. In Acts 4:20, Peter and John are ordered by the religious leaders to stop speaking about Christ. Their response is classic: "As for us, we cannot help speaking about what we have seen and heard." As Pastor Joe said last week, "It's not that we HAVE to, it's that we GET to!" Are you excited to talk about Jesus? Why or why not?
8. It seems crazy that Jesus would choose such ordinary men to accomplish His extraordinary purposes in the world...and yet He does it again and again. How does this story of Peter and John inspire you to awaken to the unexpected opportunities, events and adventure that He makes available to you?

SCRIPTURE

^{3:1}One day Peter and John were going up to the temple at the time of prayer—at three in the afternoon. ²Now a man who was lame from birth was being carried to the temple gate called Beautiful, where he was put every day to beg from those going into the temple courts. ³When he saw Peter and John about to enter, he asked them for money. ⁴Peter looked straight at him, as did John. Then Peter said, "Look at us!" ⁵So the man gave them his attention, expecting to get something from them. ⁶Then Peter said, "Silver or gold I do not have, but what I do have I give you. In the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth, walk." ⁷Taking him by the right hand, he helped him up, and instantly the man's feet and ankles became strong. ⁸He jumped to his feet and began to walk. Then he went with them into the temple courts, walking and jumping, and praising God. ⁹When all the people saw him walking and praising God, ¹⁰they recognized him as the same man who used to sit begging at the temple gate called Beautiful, and they were filled with wonder and amazement at what had happened to him... ^{4:1}The priests and the captain of the temple guard and the Sadducees came up to Peter and John while they were speaking to the people. ²They were greatly disturbed because the apostles were teaching the people, proclaiming in Jesus the resurrection of the dead. ³They seized Peter and John and, because it was evening, they put them in jail until the next day. ⁴But many who heard the message believed; so the number of men who believed grew to about five thousand. ⁵The next day the rulers, the elders and the teachers of the law met in Jerusalem. ⁶Annas the high priest was there, and so were Caiaphas, John, Alexander and others of the high priest's family. ⁷They had Peter and John brought before them and began to question them: "By what power or what name did you do this?" ⁸Then Peter, filled with the Holy Spirit, said to them: "Rulers and elders of the people! ⁹If we are being called to account today for an act of kindness shown to a man who was lame and are being asked how he was healed, ¹⁰then know this, you and all the people of Israel: It is by the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth, whom you crucified but whom God raised from the dead, that this man stands before you healed. ¹¹Jesus is 'the stone you builders rejected, which has become the cornerstone.' ¹²Salvation is found in no one else, for there is no other name under heaven given to mankind by which we must be saved." ¹³When they saw the courage of Peter and John and realized that they were unschooled, ordinary men, they were astonished and they took note that these men had been with Jesus. Acts 3:1-9; Acts 4:1-13

APPLICATION

Read the book, "Outrageous", by Aaron Tredway, and ask the Holy Spirit to begin to make you aware of how He wants to use you to expand His Kingdom.